

## Rains Help Some Drought Areas

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending August 14, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation amounts ranged from 0.41 inches in the east central and south central Lower Peninsula to 0.67 inches in the northwest Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 3 degrees above normal in the northeast and west central Lower Peninsula to 5 degrees above normal in the east central, south central, and southeast Lower Peninsula. Recent precipitation and cooler temperatures have helped some dry areas. One farmer in the central district mentioned, “Rains in the past 10 days have things looking greener and more alive. There may be some salvage for this year’s crops.” Another farmer in the southwest said, “Finally some rain, only about one-quarter inch on Friday morning. We will need a lot more to help improve crop conditions. It might be too late even if we get rain after the record number of 90 degree days.”

## Field Crops

Temperatures remained above normal through the week and precipitation was light and scattered. Most **corn** fields looked good. Reports of European corn borer increased. **Soybean** fields varied. Spraying for aphids continued. There were also reports of spider mites and nematodes. However, many producers stated that the crop looked good. The third cutting of **alfalfa** was underway. Recent rainfall advanced maturity and aided newly seeded fields. Reports of leafhoppers have increased. **Winter wheat** harvest was completed. **Oat** harvest continued. **Sugarbeet** growth advanced and fields looked good. Some fields showed signs of Cercospora leafspot. **Dry bean** fields that were stressed by a lack of moisture have recovered. Pods per plant were reported as high.

Soil moisture for week ending 08/14/05

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	14	32	53	1
Subsoil	19	36	44	1

Crop condition for week ending 08/14/05

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	7	22	30	32	9
Corn	2	7	25	45	21
Dry beans	2	7	33	51	7
Pasture	7	27	36	24	6
Soybeans	3	6	26	40	25

## Fruit

In the southwest, **peach** harvest continued and quality was good. Harvest was underway in the southeast. Size appeared to be fair to good on Red Havens. Split pits were problematic on many early season varieties. In the west central, the first early Red Havens were being harvested. Fruit size and quality were good. In the northwest, peach harvest began. In the southwest, **apple** growers were harvesting early Paula Reds. Apple maggots were being trapped. In the southeast, apples were sizing very well with Red Delicious being at 2.5 inches and most other apple varieties at 2.75 inches. In the west central, early varieties such as Lodi were being harvested. In **blueberries**, growers in the southwest completed the third picking of Bluecrop and second picking of Jersey. Elliot harvest began. In the southeast, blueberry harvest continued. Heavy bird damage continued on blueberries. In the northwest, **grape** berries were sizing rapidly with berry touch occurring in many varieties. In the southwest, summer **raspberry** harvest ended and fall harvest was underway. Harvest began in the southeast. Japanese beetle damage continued to be seen there.

## Vegetables

Warm weather advanced growth in vegetable crops. **Carrot** harvest continued and quality remained high. **Onion** fields looked good. **Pepper** harvest continued. There were limited reports of bacterial spot. **Potato** harvest advanced slowly due to high soil and pulp temperatures. **Pumpkin** plants showed signs of pest and viral activity. Some fields lacked female blossoms. **Snap bean** harvest continued. Poorly drained fields were lost due to standing water damage. **Sweet corn** harvest also continued. Growth advanced quickly and many producers hurried to keep up with harvest. **Squash, zucchini, and cucumbers** also showed signs of viral activity, and there have been a few reports of downy mildew. **Tomatoes** for fresh market harvest progressed, while harvest of processing tomatoes began.

Crop progress for week ending 08/14/05

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, second cutting	88	82	73	80
All hay, third cutting	35	26	16	18
Blueberries, harvested	82	59	84	NA
Corn, dough	57	20	19	13
Corn, dent	3	NA	NA	1
Dry beans, setting pods	91	74	55	55
Dry beans, turning leaves	7	NA	1	1
Oats, harvested	87	74	40	59
Peaches, harvested	45	40	40	NA
Potatoes, harvested	9	6	NA	NA
Soybeans, setting pods	88	79	58	65

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 08/14/05 <sup>1</sup>												
Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days <sup>2</sup>			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2005	2004	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	91	45		1,743	1,221		0.46	0.78	2.28	9.57		
Marquette	91	46		1,646	1,127		0.20	0.77	2.72	11.16		
Stephenson	95	51		1,767	1,410		0.94	0.95	2.29	8.01		
<b>Western UP</b>	95	45	4	1,698	1,214	1,394	0.47	0.82	2.41	9.50	14.29	3.69
Cornell	91	47		1,688	1,250		0.62	1.26	2.33	7.04		
Sault St Marie	87	53		1,625	1,010		0.43	0.71	3.65	7.98		
<b>Eastern UP</b>	91	39	4	1,609	1,060	1,207	0.59	0.98	2.94	8.30	13.45	3.53
Beulah	88	54		1,965	1,440		0.25	0.97	3.22	8.53		
Lake City	88	52		1,826	1,434		0.20	2.08	4.16	11.47		
Old Mission	91	53		1,849	1,365		0.44	1.57	3.17	7.34		
Pellston	89	48		1,832	1,325		1.14	1.28	3.23	8.08		
<b>Northwest</b>	91	48	4	1,840	1,343	1,576	0.67	1.61	3.69	8.87	12.66	3.11
Alpena	90	53		1,753	1,373		0.95	2.09	4.60	10.17		
Houghton Lake	87	53		1,871	1,510		0.30	0.97	2.91	9.22		
Rogers City	89	51		1,792	1,386		0.74	1.81	4.31	9.87		
<b>Northeast</b>	91	49	3	1,825	1,412	1,527	0.60	1.63	4.09	10.34	12.77	3.12
Fremont	91	58		2,069	1,693		0.52	0.83	2.50	6.60		
Hart	89	55		1,982	1,562		0.27	2.42	5.04	10.43		
Muskegon	88	61		2,125	1,700		1.23	1.32	2.82	6.93		
<b>West Central</b>	91	51	3	2,032	1,620	1,723	0.54	1.77	3.78	8.49	12.74	3.60
Alma	90	58		2,105	1,794		0.43	0.68	2.63	7.60		
Big Rapids	90	58		2,040	1,670		0.00	0.00	3.56	8.61		
<b>Central</b>	90	56	4	2,055	1,727	1,794	0.44	0.64	3.18	8.53	13.70	3.64
Bad Axe	97	64		2,029	1,619		0.43	0.88	3.13	11.46		
Pigeon	90	57		1,895	1,600		0.06	0.14	2.10	9.26		
Saginaw	89	60		2,028	1,781		0.74	1.01	3.91	11.93		
Standish	90	56		1,982	1,583		0.12	0.42	3.54	11.68		
<b>East Central</b>	97	56	5	1,966	1,656	1,781	0.41	0.69	3.13	11.15	12.47	2.93
Fennville	91	58		2,126	1,726		0.66	0.66	1.82	5.45		
Grand Rapids	92	63		2,232	2,008		0.36	0.39	3.86	15.26		
Holland	90	60		2,204	1,815		0.67	0.68	1.16	3.26		
South Bend, IN	91	61		2,365	2,131		1.44	1.55	3.10	9.01		
Watervliet	91	61		2,261	1,903		0.53	0.69	2.38	8.15		
<b>Southwest</b>	96	57	4	2,228	1,905	1,935	0.55	0.71	2.31	7.75	14.41	3.18
Belding	91	58		2,041	1,803		0.65	0.70	2.92	12.59		
Coldwater	90	61		2,103	1,855		0.46	0.60	2.95	10.66		
Lansing	91	64		2,231	1,886		0.42	0.49	4.32	14.61		
<b>South Central</b>	92	58	5	2,168	1,908	1,914	0.41	0.52	3.05	11.16	14.28	3.36
Detroit	90	64		2,348	2,103		0.36	0.36	3.23	11.33		
Flint	90	61		2,133	1,932		0.24	0.32	3.75	10.66		
Romeo	90	62		2,139	1,898		0.57	0.60	3.49	12.40		
Tipton	90	62		2,183	1,874		0.44	0.46	4.56	12.21		
Toledo, OH	93	61		2,322	2,170		0.69	0.69	4.00	10.15		
<b>Southeast</b>	93	57	5	2,188	1,984	1,898	0.58	0.62	3.66	12.24	13.82	3.12

<sup>1</sup> Issued by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

<sup>2</sup> Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.